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PRAYERS

WHEN THE DOOR IS SHUT.

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PRAYERS

WHEN THE DOOR IS SHUT.

LONDON:
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PRAYERS

WHEN THE DOOR IS SHUT.

With Reflections,

CHIEFLY COLLECTED FROM THE OLD ENGLISH DIVINES.

BY A LADY DECEASED.

WITH ADDITIONS BY A. M. C.

BODLEIANA

LONDON:
HATCHARDS, 187 PICCADILLY.
1870.

138. g 434.

'BUT THOU, WHEN THOU PRAYEST, ENTER INTO THY CLOSET, AND WHEN THOU HAST SHUT THE DOOR, PRAY TO THY FATHER WHICH IS IN SECRET.'—MATT. vi. 6.

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LORD! with what care hast Thou begirt us round—
Parents first season us, then schoolmasters deliver
us to laws;
They send us bound to rules and reasons—heavenly messengers,
Pulpits, and Sundays—sorrow dogging sir,
Afflictions sorted, anguish of all sizes—
Fine nets and stratagems to catch us in—
Bibles laid open—millions of surprises—
Blessings beforehand—ties of gratefulness
Without our shames, within our consciences—
Angels and grace, eternal hope and fears—
Yet all these fences and their whole array
One cunning bosom sin blows quite away.

GEORGE HERBERT.

And can it be imaginable—that life itself—and an eternal and happy life—a kingdom, a perfect kingdom, and glorious, that shall never have ending or abatement of rebellion, or fears, or sorrow, or care—that such a kingdom should not be worth praying for; and quitting a little foolish company, or a little drink, or a vicious woman? Surely men believe no such thing! They do not rely upon those stories that are read in books, and published by preachers, and allowed by the laws of the world.

If they did, why do they put intemperance, lust and shame, rebellion and danger, pride and a fall, sacrilege and a curse, gain and passion—before humility and safety, religion and a constant joy, peace of conscience, justice, and a quiet dwelling?—*From Jeremy Taylor's 'Golden Grove.'*

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS.

Prayer found on the first page of the Greek Testament of a Gentleman deceased.

FROM the violence and rule of passion; from servile will and a commanding lust; from pride and vanity; from false opinion and ignorant confidence; from improvidence and prodigality; from envy and the spirit of slander; from sensuality; from presumption and from despair—

From a state of temptation and hardened spirit; from delaying of repentance and persevering in sin; from unthankfulness and irreligion, and from seducing others—

From all infatuation of soul, folly, and madness; from wilfulness, self-love, and vain ambition; from a vicious life and an unprovided death—pray we, with Jeremy Taylor, for deliverance.

A Prayer against Wandering Thoughts, to be said at the beginning of our Devotions.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast commanded us to pray unto Thee without ceasing, and hast added many glorious promises for our encouragement, let Thy Holy Spirit teach me how to pray: give me just apprehension of Thy glory, great resentment* of Thy mercies, love of all spiritual employments that are pleasing unto Thee; and do Thou help my infirmities, that my fancy may not be abused by illusions, nor my mind distracted by cares, nor my thoughts alienated by impertinences; but give me, I beseech Thee, a present mind, great devotion, a heart fixed upon Thy divine perfections, and an actual intuition and perseverance in my prayers, that I may glorify Thy Name, do unto Thee true and laudable service, and obtain relief for all my necessities.

* Strong perception.

Hear me, O King of Heaven, when I call upon Thee; for Thou hast promised mercy to them that pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for the Morning.

Most glorious and eternal God, Father of mercy and God of all comfort, I worship and adore Thee with the lowest humility, and give Thee all thanks and praise for Thy mercies upon me and mine.

I acknowledge that I have deserved the greatest of Thy wrath and indignation; but Thy mercy triumphing over my sins, Thou hast still continued to me life and a time of repentance: Thou hast opened to me the gates of grace and mercy, and perpetually called upon me to enter in, and to walk in the paths of a holy life, that I might glorify Thee, and be glorified of Thee, eternally. For this Thy great and unspeakable goodness, for the preservation of me this night, and for all Thy other graces and blessings, I offer up my soul and body, all that I am and all that I have, as a sacrifice to Thee and Thy service, humbly begging of Thee to pardon all my sins, to defend me from

all evil, to lead me into all good, and let my portion be amongst Thy redeemed ones in the gathering together of Thy saints in the kingdom of grace and glory.

Guide me, O Lord, in all changes and varieties of the world, that in all things that shall happen I may have an evenness and tranquillity of spirit, that my soul may be wholly resigned to Thy divinest will and pleasure, never murmuring at Thy gentle chastisements and fatherly correction, never waxing proud, though I feel a torrent of comforts and prosperous successes.

Fix my thoughts, my hopes, my desires, upon heaven and heavenly things: teach me to despise the world, to repent me deeply for my sins: give me holy purposes of amendment, and strength and assistance to perform faithfully whatsoever I shall intend piously. Enrich my understanding with an eternal treasure of divine truths, that I may know Thy will; and Thou who workest in us to will and to do of Thy good pleasure, teach me to obey all Thy commandments, to believe all Thy gracious promises.

Teach me to watch over all my ways, that I may never be surprised by sudden temptations or a careless spirit, or even return to folly and vanity. Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips, that I offend not in my tongue, either against piety or charity. And teach me to do nothing but what becomes Thy servant, whom Thy infinite mercy hath sealed up to the day of redemption.

Let all my passions and affections be so mortified and brought under the dominion of grace, that I may never by deliberation and purpose, nor yet by levity, rashness, or inconsideration, offend Thy divine Majesty. Make me such as Thou wouldest have me to be;—oh, strengthen my faith, confirm my hope, and give me a daily increase of charity, that this day I may serve Thee according to all my opportunities and capacities growing from grace to grace; till at last by Thy mercies I shall receive the consummation and perfection of grace, even the glories of Thy kingdom. Amen.

A Prayer to be said every Morning.

O Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of mercy and comfort, with reverence and fear, with humble confidence and strong desires, I approach Thy throne of grace, begging of Thee mercy and protection, pardon and salvation. O my God, I am a sinner, but sorrowful and repenting: Thou art justly offended at me, but yet Thou art my Lord and my Father, merciful and gracious. Be pleased to blot all my sins out of Thy remembrance, and to heal my soul, that I may never any more sin against Thee. Lord, open my eyes, that I may see my own infirmities, and watch against them; and my own follies, that I may amend them: and be pleased to give perfect understanding in the way of godliness, that I may walk in it all the days of my pilgrimage. Give me a spirit diligent in the works of my calling, cheerful and zealous

in religion, fervent and frequent in my prayers, charitable and useful in my conversations; give me a healthful and chaste body, a pure and holy soul, a sanctified and an humble spirit; and let my body, and soul, and spirit, be preserved unblameable to the coming of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

Blessed be Thy Name, O God, and blessed be Thy mercies, who hast preserved me this night from sin and sorrow, from sad chances and a violent death, from the malice of the devil and the evil effects of my own corrupted nature and infirmity. The outgoings of the morning and evening shall praise Thee, and Thy servants shall rejoice in giving Thee praise for the operation of Thy hands. Let Thy providence and care watch over me this day, and all my whole life, that I may never sin against Thee, by idleness or folly, by evil company or private sins, by word or deed—by thought or desire; and let the employment of the day leave no sorrow, or the remembrance of an evil conscience, at night, but let it be holy

and profitable, blessed and always innocent; that when the days of my short abode are done, and the shadow is departed, I may die in Thy fear and favour, and rest in a holy hope, and at last return to the joys of a blessed resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sir Robert Peel's Prayer.

GREAT and merciful God, Ruler of all nations, help me daily to repair to Thee for wisdom and grace suitable to the high office whereto Thy providence has called me.

Strengthen, O Lord, my natural powers and faculties, that the weighty and solemn interests with which Thy servant is charged may not suffer through weariness of body or confusion of mind. Deign, I beseech Thee, to obviate or correct the ill effects of such omissions or mistakes in my proceedings as may result from partial knowledge, infirmity of judgment, or unfaithfulness in any with whom I may have to do. Let Thy blessing rest upon my Sovereign and my country. Dispose the hearts of all in high stations to adopt such measures as will preserve public order, foster industry, and alleviate distress.

May true religion flourish, and peace be universal. Grant that so far as may consist with human weakness, whatsoever is proposed by myself or others for the general good may be viewed with candour, and that all wise and useful measures may be conducted to a prosperous issue.

As for me, Thy servant—grant, O merciful God, that I may not be so far engrossed with public anxieties that Thy word should become unfruitful in me; or be so moved by difficulty or opposition as not to pursue that narrow way which leadeth unto life.

And, O most gracious Father, if, notwithstanding my present desire and purposes, I should forget Thee, do not Thou forget me, seeing that I entreat Thy constant remembrance and favour only for the sake of our most blessed Advocate and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be glory for ever. Amen.

HYMN FOR THE MORNING.

AWAKE, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily round of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and early rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

Redeem the misspent moments past,
And live this day as if thy last;
Thy duty to perform take care,
For the last day thyself prepare.

Let all thy conduct be sincere,
Thy conscience as the noonday clear;
For God's unerring eye surveys
Thy secret acts, thy walks, thy ways.

Direct, control, suggest this day,
All that I think, or do, or say;
Guide the first springs of thought or will,
And with Thyself my being fill.

This and the hymn for the evening were recommended by Dean Stanley for his private devotion to the *Prince of Wales*, then young, travelling with him in the Holy Land.

A Prayer for the Evening.

ETERNAL GOD, Father of men and angels, by whose care and providence I am preserved and blessed, comforted and assisted, I humbly beg of Thee to pardon the sins and follies of this day, the weaknesses of my services, and the strength of my passions, the rashness of my words, and the vanity and evil of my actions. O just and dear God, how long shall I confess my sins, and pray against them, and yet fall under them? O let it be so no more! let me never return to the follies of which I am ashamed, which bring sorrow, and death, and Thy displeasure—worse than death.

Give me a command over my evil inclinations, and a perfect hatred of sin, and a love to Thee above all the desires of this world. Be pleased to bless and preserve me this night from all sin, and all violence of chance, and all the malice of the spirits of darkness;

watch over me in my sleep; and whether I sleep or wake, let me be Thy servant. Be Thou first and last in my thoughts, and the guide and continual assistance of all my actions. Preserve my body, pardon the sin of my soul, and sanctify my spirit; let me always live holily, and justly, and soberly; and when I die, receive my soul into Thy hands, O holy and ever-blessed Jesus! that I may behold Thy face and live in Thy kingdom, singing praises to God for ever and ever. Amen.

EVENING HYMN.

Glory to Thee, O God! this night,
For all the blessings of the light;
Keep us, oh! keep us, heavenly King!
Beneath Thine own almighty wing.

Forgive us, Lord, for Thy dear Son,
The ill that we this day have done;
That with the world, ourselves, and Thee,
We, ere we rest, at peace may be.

Grant us the blessings of repose,
And with sweet sleep our eyelids close;
Sleep that may us more vigorous make
To do Thy will when we awake.

For fervent and effectual Devotion in Prayer.

O HOLY and eternal God, who hast commanded us to pray to Thee in all our necessities, and to give thanks unto Thee for all our instances of joy and blessing, and to adore Thee in all Thy attributes and communications, Thy own glories, and Thy eternal mercies; give unto me, Thy servant, the spirit of prayer and supplication, that I may conform to Thy will, and submit to Thy disposing, relinquishing my own affections and imperfect choice. Sanctify my heart and spirit, that I may sanctify Thy name, that I may be gracious and accepted in Thine eyes; give me the humility and obedience of a servant, that I may also have the hope and confidence of a son, making humble and confident addresses to the throne of grace; that in all my necessities I may come to Thee for aid, and may trust in Thee for a gracious answer, and may receive satisfaction and supply. Give me a

sober, diligent, and recollected spirit in my prayers, neither choked with cares, nor scattered by levity, nor discomposed by passion, nor estranged from Thee by inadvertency, but fixed fast to Thee by the indissoluble bands of love and devotion. And let the beams of Thy Holy Spirit descending from above, enlighten and enkindle it with great fervour, and holy importunity, and unwearied industry, that I may serve Thee, and obtain Thy blessing by the assiduity and zeal of perpetual religious offices. Let my prayers come before Thy presence, and the lifting up my hands be a daily sacrifice, and let the fires of zeal not go out by night or day; but unite my prayers to the intercession of the holy Jesus, and to a communion of those offices which angels and beatified souls do pay before the throne of the Lamb, and at the celestial altar; that my prayers, being hallowed by the merits of Christ, may ascend thither, where Thy glory dwells, and from whence mercy and eternal benediction descend upon Thy Church.

Lord, change my sins into penitential

sorrow, my sorrow to petition, that my prayers be consummate in the adorations of eternity, and the glorious participation of the end of our hopes and prayers, the fulness of never-failing charity, and the fruition of Thee, O holy and eternal God; to whom all honour and worship, and thanks and glory, be ascribed for ever. Amen.

Upon the Recovery of a beloved Member of a Family from Sickness.

O Lord Almighty, who hast invited us to approach Thee as our reconciled Father in Jehovah Jesus, vouchsafe to hear us in mercy and pity—Pour down upon us the gift of Thy Holy Spirit; enlighten our understanding that we may know Thy voice, and give us grace that we may cheerfully and diligently obey Thy will in thought, word, and deed; so that we may always feel Thy presence, and seek the comfortable assurance which Thou hast given us that Thou carest for us. May we acknowledge Thy providence in ordering all things for our good, and may we bless Thy holy name for Thy constant, merciful, loving kindness towards us. May we prove our gratitude by the use of the gift of grace and the measure of Thy Holy Spirit which Thou hast promised to them who ask.

Grant that we, and Thy servant, may in our affliction feel that Thou dost not willingly afflict us; may we acknowledge Thy goodness in it, and praise Thee for having ordered and overruled it to our present and everlasting happiness; and may we never forget that Thou dost prove Thy love to us by the chastisements which Thou seest best to lay upon us. O Lord, grant that we may love Thee, our only God and Father, our Saviour, our Sanctifier, and the lifter up of our head. Grant that we may love Thee above all things, and serve Thee faithfully now and for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For a Contented Spirit.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, Father and Lord of all creatures, who hast disposed all things and all chances so as may best glorify Thy wisdom, serve the ends of Thy justice, and magnify Thy mercy—Thy secret and undiscernible ways bringing good out of evil; I most humbly beseech Thee to give me wisdom from above, that I may adore Thee, and admire Thy ways and footsteps which are in the great deep, and not to be searched out. Teach me to submit to Thy providence in all things—to be content in all changes of person and condition; to be temperate in prosperity, and to read my duty in the lines of Thy mercy—and in adversity to be meek, patient, and resigned, looking through the cloud, that I may wait for the consolation of the Lord and the day of redemption—in the meantime, doing my duty with unwearied diligence and an undisturbed reso-

lution, having no fondness for the vanities and possessions of this world, but laying up my hopes in heaven, and the rewards of a holy living, being strengthened with the Spirit in the inner man, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Humility and a Mortified Spirit.

O ETERNAL GOD, Fountain of all truth and holiness, in whom to believe is life eternal, let Thy grace descend with a mighty power into my soul, beating down every stronghold and vainer imagination, and bringing every proud thought, and my confident and ignorant understanding, into the obedience of Jesus.

Take from me all disobedience and refractoriness of spirit, all ambition, and private and baser interest; remove from me all prejudice and weakness of persuasion, that I may wholly resign my understanding to the persuasions of Christianity; acknowledging Thee to be the principle of truth, and Thy word the measure of knowledge, and Thy laws the rule of my life, and Thy promises the satisfaction of my hopes and an union with Thee, to be the consummation of charity in the fruition of glory. Amen.

For Submission.

O MOST gracious and eternal God, Father and Lord of all, I confess I am unworthy of any favour; I am less than the least of Thy mercies, yet our weakness and unworthiness cannot be the measures of Thy mercy: Thou art good and gracious, and delightest in showing mercy to them that call upon Thee and put their trust in Thee. I know, O God, that Thou lovest to hear our prayers, and Thou delightest in the humble and resigned desires of Thy servants. O God, I humbly submit my desires, my interests, my content, and all that I am or have, to Thy holy will and pleasure, humbly begging of Thee that I may cheerfully suffer, and obediently do Thy will, and choose what Thou choosest, and observe the ways of Thy providence, and revere Thy judgment, and wait for Thy mercy, and delight in Thy dispensations, and expect that all things

shall work together for good to them that fear Thee. O let Thy Holy Spirit for ever be present with me, and make me to fear Thee, and to love Thee above all things in the world for ever; and then no ill can come unto Thy servant, for whosoever loves Thee cannot perish. Hear the prayer of Thy servant, and relieve my sorrow, and sanctify my desires, and accept me in the Son of Thy love, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Eusebius' Martyrdom of Polycarp.

THEY therefore did not nail him, but merely bound him to the stake. But he, closing his hands behind him, and bound to the stake as a noble victim selected from the great flock, an acceptable sacrifice to Almighty God, said—'Father of Thy well-beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have received the knowledge of Thee, the God of angels and powers, and all creation, and of all the family of the righteous that live before Thee, I bless Thee that Thou hast thought me worthy of the present day and hour, to have a share in the number of the martyrs and in the cup of Christ, unto the resurrection of eternal life, both of the soul and body, in the incorruptible felicity of the Holy Spirit, among whom may I be received in Thy sight this day as a rich and acceptable sacrifice, as Thou the faithful and true God

hast prepared, hast revealed and fulfilled. Wherefore on this account and for all things I praise Thee, I bless Thee, I glorify Thee, through the eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ Thy well-beloved Son; through whom glory be to Thee with Him in the Holy Ghost, both now and for ever. Amen.'

Against Wrath and inordinate Anger.

O ALMIGHTY JUDGE of men and angels, whose anger is always the minister of justice —slow, but severe, not lightly arising, but falling heavily when it comes, give to Thy servant a meek and a gentle spirit, that I also may be slow to anger, and easy to mercy and forgiveness. Give me a wise and a constant heart, that I may not be moved with every trifling mistake and inconsiderable accident in the conversation and intercourse of others; or ever be moved to an intemperate anger for any injury that is done or offered.

Lord, let me be ever courteous and easy to be entreated; never let me fall into a peevish or contentious spirit, but follow peace with all men, offering forgiveness, inviting them by courtesies, ready to confess my own errors, and apt to make amends, and desirous to be reconciled. Let no sickness, no cross accident, no employment or weariness, make me angry, or ungentle and

discontent, or unthankful, or uneasy to them that minister to me; but in all things make me like to the Holy Jesus. Give me the spirit of a Christian, charitable, humble, merciful and meek, useful and liberal, complying with every chance, angry at nothing but my own sins, and grieving for the sins of others; that while my religion is pure and undefiled, managed with humility and adorned with charity, I may escape Thy anger which I have deserved, and may dwell in Thy love, and be Thy servant for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

'To consider not how small the spark is which flieth up, as how apt the things about it are to take fire.'—HOOKER.

'Disputes which have lately sprung up for complements, rites, and ceremonies of church actions, are in truth for the greater part such silly things, that very easiness doth make them hard to be disputed of in a serious manner.'—HOOKER.

For the Graces of Faith, Hope, and Charity.

O Lord God, of infinite mercy, of infinite excellency, who hast sent Thy Holy Son into the world to redeem us from an intolerable misery, and to teach us a holy religion, and to forgive us an infinite debt; give me Thy Holy Spirit, that my understanding and all my faculties may be so resigned to the discipline and doctrine of my Lord, that I may be prepared to die for the testimony of Jesus, and to suffer any affliction or calamity that shall offer to hinder my duty, or tempt me to shame, or sin, or apostasy; and let my faith be the parent of a good life, a strong shield to repel the fiery darts of the devil, and the author of a holy hope, of modest desires and confidence in God, and of a never-failing charity to Thee, my God, and to all the world; that I may never have my portion with the unbelievers, or uncharitable and

desperate persons; but may be supported by the strengths of faith in all temptations, and may be refreshed with the comforts of a holy hope in all my sorrows, and may bear the burden of the Lord, and the infirmities of my neighbour, by the support of charity; that the yoke of Jesus may become easy to me, and my love may do all the miracles of grace, till from grace it swells to glory, from earth to heaven, from the imperfections of a beginning and a little growing love, it may arrive to the consummation of an eternal and never-ceasing charity, through Jesus Christ, the Son of Thy love, the Author of our hope, and the Author and Finisher of our faith: to whom with thee, O Lord God, Father of heaven and earth, and with Thy Holy Spirit, be all glory, and love, and obedience, and dominion, now and for ever. Amen.

For Holy Intention in the beginning and pursuit of any considerable Action, as Study, Preaching, &c.

O ETERNAL GOD, who hast made all things for man, and man for Thy glory, sanctify my body and soul, my thoughts and my intentions, my words and actions, that whatsoever I shall think, or speak, or do, may be by me designed to the glorification of Thy name, and by Thy blessing it may be effective and successful in the work of God, according as it can be capable. Lord, turn my necessities into virtue, the works of nature into the works of grace, by making them orderly, regular, temperate, subordinate, and profitable to ends beyond their own proper efficacy; and let no pride or self-seeking, no covetousness or revenge, no impure mixture or unhandsome purposes, no little ends and low imaginations, pollute my spirit, and unhallow any of my words

and actions; but let my body be a servant of my spirit, and both body and spirit servants of Jesus; that doing all things for Thy glory here, I may be partaker of Thy glory hereafter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Increase of Grace and Perfection.

O ETERNAL GOD, merciful and gracious, vouchsafe Thy favour and Thy blessing to Thy servant; let the love of Thy mercies and the dread and fear of Thy majesty make me careful and inquisitive to search Thy will, and diligently to perform it, and to persevere in the practices of a holy life, even till the last of my days.

Keep me, O Lord, for I am Thine by creation; guide me, for I am Thine by purchase; Thou hast redeemed me by the blood of Thy Son, and loved me with the love of a Father, for I am Thy child by adoption and grace. Let Thy mercy pardon my sins, Thy providence secure me from the punishments and evils I have deserved, and Thy care watch over me, that I may never any more offend Thee. Make me in malice to be a child; but in understanding, piety, and the fear of God, let me be a perfect man in

Christ, innocent and prudent, readily furnished and instructed to every good work.

Let no riches make me ever forget myself, no poverty ever make me to forget Thee. Let no hope or fear, no pleasure or pain, no accident without, no weakness within, hinder or discompose my duty, or turn me from the ways of Thy commandments. Oh, let Thy Spirit dwell with me for ever, and make my soul just and charitable, full of honesty, full of religion, resolute and constant in holy purposes, but inflexible to evil. Make me humble and obedient, peaceable and pious; let me never envy any man's good, nor deserve to be despised myself: and if I be, teach me to bear it with meekness and charity.

Give me a tender conscience, a resigned will, and mortified affections, that I may be as Thou wouldst have me, and my portion may be in the lot of the righteous, in the brightness of Thy countenance, and the glories of eternity. Amen.

For Grace to continue a Religious Life.

O ETERNAL GOD, who wert pleased in mercy to look upon us, to reconcile us when we were enemies, to forgive us in the midst of our provocations of Thy infinite and eternal Majesty, finding out a remedy for us which mankind could never ask; even making an atonement for us by the death of Thy Son, sanctifying us by the blood of Thy everlasting covenant and Thy all-hallowing and divinest Spirit: let Thy graces so perpetually assist and encourage my endeavours, conduct my will, and fortify my intentions, that I may persevere in that holy condition which Thou hast put me in, by the grace of the covenant and the mercies of the Holy Jesu.

Oh, let me never fall into those sins, or return to that vain conversation, from which the eternal and merciful Saviour of the world hath redeemed me; but let me grow

in grace, adding virtue to virtue, reducing my purposes to acts, and increasing my acts till they grow into habits, and my habits till they be confirmed, and still confirming them till they be consummate in a blessed and holy perseverance.

Let Thy preventing grace dash all temptations in their approach; let Thy grace enable me to resist them in the assault, and overcome them in the fight, that my hopes be never discomposed, nor my faith weakened, nor my confidence made remiss, or my title and proportion in the covenant be lessened; or if Thou permittest me at any time to fall (which, Holy Jesus, avert for Thy mercy and compassion's sake), yet let me not sleep in sin, but recall me instantly by the clamours of a wise and tender conscience, and the quickening of the Spirit; that I may never pass from sin to sin, from one degree to another, lest sin should get the dominion over me, lest Thou be angry with me, and reject me from the covenant, and I perish. Purify me, and sanctify my spirit, that I may be holy as Thou art; and let

me never provoke Thy jealousy, nor presume upon Thy goodness, nor distrust Thy mercies, nor defer my repentance, nor rely upon vain confidences; but that I may, by a constant, sedulous, and timely endeavour, make my calling and election sure, living to Thee and dying to Thee; that having sowed to the Spirit, I may, from Thy mercies, reap in the Spirit bliss, and eternal sanctity, and everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, our Hope, and our mighty and ever-glorious Redeemer. Amen.

For Spiritual Assistance in Danger and Temptation.

ETERNAL GOD, and most merciful Father, I adore Thy wisdom, providence, and admirable dispensation of affairs in the spiritual kingdom of our Lord Jesus; that Thou, who art infinitely good, dost permit so many sadnesses and dangers to discompose that order of things and spirits which Thou didst create innocent and harmless, and dost design to great and spiritual perfections; that the emanation of good from evil by Thy overruling power and excellencies may force glory to Thee from our shame, and honour to Thy wisdom by these contradictory accidents and events: Lord, have pity upon me in these sad disorders, and with mercy know my infirmities. Let me, by suffering what Thou pleasest, cooperate to the glorification of Thy grace and magnifying Thy mercy; but never let

me consent to sin, but with the power of Thy majesty and mightiness of Thy prevailing mercy, rescue me from those dangers and enemies which daily seek to deflower that innocence with which Thou didst clothe my soul in the new birth. Behold, O God, how all the spirits of darkness endeavour the extinction of our hopes, and the dispersion of all those graces, and the prevention of all those glories which the Holy Jesus has purchased for every loving and obedient soul. Our senses are snares, our business is various temptation, our sins are inlets to more, and our good actions made occasions of sins. Lord, deliver me from the malice of the devil, from the fallacies of the world, from my own folly, that I be not devoured by the first, nor cheated by the second, nor betrayed by myself; but let Thy grace, which is sufficient for me, be always present with me; let Thy Spirit instruct me in the spiritual warfare, arming my understanding, and securing my will, and fortifying my spirit, with resolutions of piety and incentives of religion; that the dangers I am

encompassed with may become unto me an occasion of victory and triumph, through the aids of the Holy Ghost, and by the cross of the Lord Jesus, who hath for Himself, and all His servants, triumphed over sin, and hell, and the grave, even all the powers of darkness; from which, by the mercies of Jesus, and the merits of His passion, now and ever deliver me and all Thy faithful people. Amen.

Against Temptations.

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy name is great, Thy essence is infinite, Thy goodness is eternal, and Thy power hath no limit; Thou art the God and Lord of all, blessed for evermore. Look down in mercy and compassion from Thy dwelling, hear our prayers and supplications, and deliver us from all temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Take not Thy grace from us, let us never want Thy help in our needs, nor Thy comfort in the day of our danger and calamity. Never try us beyond our strength, nor afflict us beyond our patience, nor smite us but with a father's rod. We have no strength of our own; Thou art our confidence, our rock, and our strong salvation. Save us, O God, from the miseries of this world, and never let us suffer the intolerable calamities of the next. Rescue us from the evils we have done,

and preserve us from the evils we have deserved; that we, living before Thee with clean hearts, and undefiled bodies, and sanctified spirits, may, at the day of judgment, be presented pure and spotless by the blood of the Lamb, that we may sing eternal hallelujahs in heavenly places to the honour of God our Saviour, who hath redeemed our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. Grant this in the riches of Thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For a Sense of Religion.

O Eternal God, Lord of heaven and earth, Father of men and angels, we do adore Thy infinite goodness, we revere Thy justice, and delight in Thy mercies, by which Thou hast dealt with us, not with the utmost right and dominion of a Lord, but with the gentleness of a father,—treating us like friends, who were indeed Thy enemies. Thou, O God, didst see our follies, and observe our weaknesses; Thou knowest the averseness of our nature to good, and our proneness to commit vanity; and because our imperfect obedience could not bring us to perfect felicity, whither Thou didst design us, the great God of all the world was pleased to make a new covenant with man.

Blessed be God, and blessed be that mercy which has done so great things for us; O be pleased to work that in us which

Thou expectest from us. Let us not lose our title in the covenant of faith and repentance by deferring the one or dishonouring the other; but let us walk worthy of our vocation, according to the law of faith, and the mercies of God, and the covenant of our Lord Jesus.

O Father of all mercy, in the name of the blessed Jesus, I beseech Thee suffer us not to abuse Thy mercies, or to turn Thy grace into wantonness. Let the remembrance and sense of Thy glorious favours endear our services and bring forth the fruits of godliness in our whole life. Imprint deeply upon our hearts the fear and terror of Thy majesty, and perpetually entertain our spirits with highest apprehensions of Thy loving kindness, that we may fear more and love more, every day more and more hating sin, crucifying all its affections and desires, passionately loving holy things, zealously following after them, prudently conducting them, and indefatigably persevering in them to the end of our lives.

O blessed and eternal God, with Thy

Spirit enlighten our understandings in the mysterious secrets of Thy law; make me to understand all the most advantageous ways of duty, and kindle a flame in my soul that no difficulty or contradiction, no temptation within or persecution without, may ever extinguish. Give me a mighty grace, that I may design to please Thee with my best and all my services, to follow the best examples, to do the noblest charities, to pursue all perfection, ever pressing forward to the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Let us rather choose to die than to sin. Let us also watch, that we may omit nothing of our duty, nor any opportunity by which Thou canst be glorified, or any Christian instructed, comforted, or assisted; not resting in the strictest measures of command, but pressing forward to great significations of love, doing some things by which Thou mayest be greatly pleased, that Thou mayest take delight to pardon, to sanctify, and to preserve Thy servants for ever. Amen.

An Act of Intercession, or Prayer for others.

O God of infinite mercy, who hast compassion on all men, and relievest the necessities of all who call to Thee for help, hear the prayers of Thy servant, who is unworthy to ask any petition for himself, yet, in humility and duty, is bound to pray for others.

Bless Thy servant [wife *or* husband] with health of body and spirit. O let the hand of Thy blessing be upon his [*or* her, *or* their] head night and day, support him in all necessities, strengthen him in all temptations, comfort him in all his sorrows, and let him be Thy servant in all changes; and make us both to dwell with Thee for ever in Thy favour, in the light of Thy countenance, and in Thy glory.

Bless my children with healthful bodies, with good understandings, with the graces and gifts of Thy Spirit, with sweet dispositions and holy habits, and sanctify them

throughout in their bodies, souls, and spirits, and keep them unblameable to the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Be pleased, O Lord, to remember my friends, all that have prayed for me, all that have done me good. Do Thou good to them, and return all their kindness double into their own bosom, rewarding them with blessings, sanctifying them with Thy grace, and bringing them to glory.

Let all my family and kindred receive the benefit of my prayers and the blessings of God, the comforts and supports of Thy providence, and the sanctification of Thy Spirit.

Relieve and comfort all the persecuted and afflicted, speak peace to troubled consciences, strengthen the weak, confirm the strong, instruct the ignorant, deliver the oppressed from him that spoileth him, and relieve the needy that hath no helper; and bring us all by the waters of comfort, and in the ways of righteousness, to the kingdom of grace and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

To God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the eternal Son, to the Spirit of the Father and the Son, be all honour and glory, worship and thanksgiving, now and for ever. Amen.

A Parish Prayer for Women.

'Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.'—*Matt.* vii. 7.

'I say unto you, If two of you shall agree on earth touching anything they shall ask, it shall be done unto them of my Father, which is in heaven.'

O Lord God, Father Almighty, we humbly beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, to look down with mercy and pity on us women who live in this parish. We confess that we have sinned and are sinning against Thee our Father, and Thy Son our Lord. We beseech Thee to give us true repentance, and to grant us Thy Holy Spirit, that He may convince us of sin and teach us Thy holy and glorious will; so that we henceforth, trusting in the help of Thy Son our Lord, may perfectly fulfil Thy will in our lives, to the glory of Thy name, and the blessing of all in this parish, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

It was agreed in a certain parish that the women, great and small, should unite in saying this Prayer at their several habitations.

To be said by a New-married Wife entering into a Family.

O ETERNAL GOD, the Father of wisdom and mercy, Thou hast been my guide and my defence all my days; I bless Thy name, O Lord, for all Thy dispensations; Thou hast done all things with infinite wisdom; Thou hast kept me from the effects of Thy wrath, and the evils of my own infirmities; Thou didst defend me from evil by the guard of angels, and didst lead me into good by the conduct of Thy Holy Spirit; Thou hast always heard my prayer, ever being more ready to bless me than I to ask it; Thou hast said unto me, 'I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee;' be, therefore, graciously pleased to hear the prayer of Thine handmaid, that I may have the aids of an excellent Providence, and a mighty grace to do my duty in all my relations, in all varieties

and changes of the world, until my great change shall come.

Give Thy blessing to Thy servant, my dear husband; give him long life and a confirmed health; encircle him with blessings, adorn him with Thy grace, nourish him with content, refresh him with a perpetual succession of comforts, let the light of Thy countenance be upon him in all his actions, and the accidents of his life, and grant that he may still more and more increase in the love and fear of Thy holy name; that despising the things of this world, he may hunger and thirst after the things of God and of religion, and may have his portion in the gathering together of the saints in the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless me, even me, O my Father; and grant that I may in all things do my duty to Thee, my God. Give me a perfect command over my passions and affections, that I may pass through all the accidents of life with meekness and a sober spirit, with patience and charity, with prudence and holiness; O be pleased to give Thy ser-

vant a right judgment in all things, that I may not be amazed at trifles, nor discomposed by every contrariety of accidents, nor passionate for the things of the world, nor discontent if Thou shouldst smite me; but that I may, with an even and quiet spirit, do my duty, and comply with every variety of Thy providence, and obey my husband, and be amiable in his eyes, and useful and careful for his children, ever desiring to approve myself to Thee in a holy and hearty obedience, in piety and devotion, in patience and humility, in chastity and purity, in all holiness of conversation; and do Thou give Thy holy and blessed Spirit to guide and teach me all my days, that I may overcome all my infirmities, and comply with and bear the infirmities of others; giving offence to none, but doing good to all I can, that I may receive pardon from Thee for all my sins, and pity for all my infirmities, and Thy blessing upon all my actions, and a sanctification of all my intentions; and when my life is done, I may have the peace of God, and the testimony of a holy conscience to

accompany me to my grave, and to consign me to a holy and blessed resurrection, to partake of the inheritance which Thou hast provided for Thy saints and servants. Grant this for Jesus Christ, our dearest Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A Prayer of a Wife for her Husband.

O MOST GLORIOUS GOD, and my most indulgent Lord and gracious Father, who dost bless us by Thy bounty, pardon us by Thy mercy, support and guide us by Thy grace, and govern by Thy providence, bless and preserve that dear person whom Thou hast chosen to be my husband; let his life be long and blessed, comfortable and holy; and let me also be a great blessing and comfort unto him, a sharer in all his joys, a refreshment in all his sorrows, a meet helper for him in all accidents and chances of the world. Make me amiable for ever in his eyes, and very dear to him. Unite his heart to me in the dearest union of love and holiness, and mine to him in all sweetness, charity, and compliance. Keep from me all morosity and ungentleness, all sullenness and harshness of disposition, all pride and vanity, all discontentedness and unreason-

ableness of passion and humour; and make me humble and obedient, charitable and loving, patient and contented, useful and observant, that we may delight in each other, according to Thy blessed word and ordinance, and both of us may rejoice in Thee, having our portion in the love and service of God for ever and ever.

O blessed Father, never suffer any mistakes or discontent, any distrustfulness or sorrow, any trifling arrests of fancy or unhandsome accident, to cause any unkindness between us; but let us so dearly love, so affectionately observe, so religiously attend to each other's good and content, that we may always please Thee, and by this learn and practise our duty and greatest love to Thee, and become mutual helps to each other in the way of godliness; that when we have received the blessings of a married life, the comforts of society, the endearments of a holy and great affection, we may for ever dwell together in Thy love and glories to eternal ages, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer to be said by Parents for their Children.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast promised children as a reward to the righteous, and hast given them to me as a testimony of Thy mercy and an engagement of my duty, be pleased to be a father unto them, and give them healthful bodies, understanding souls, and sanctified spirits, that they may be Thy servants and children all their days. Let a great mercy and providence lead them through the dangers, and temptations, and ignorances, of their youth, that they may never run into folly, and the evils of an unbridled appetite. So order the accidents of their lives, that, by a good education, careful tutors, holy example, innocent company, prudent counsel, and Thy restraining grace, their duty to Thee may be secured in the midst of a crooked and untoward generation; and if it seem good in

Thy eyes, let me be enabled to provide conveniently for the support of their persons, that they may not be destitute and miserable in my death; or if Thou shalt call me off from this world by a more timely summons, let their portion be Thy care, extend Thy mercy and providence over their bodies and souls; and may they never live vicious lives, nor die violent or untimely deaths; but let them glorify Thee here with a free obedience, and the duties of a whole life, that when they have served Thee in their generations, and have profited the Christian Commonwealth, they may be co-heirs with Jesus, in the glories of Thy eternal kingdom, through the same Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

From Jeremy Taylor's 'Golden Grove.'

SOMETIMES the passions of the flesh spoil the changes of the spirit by natural escapes and disproportion of degrees. It mingles violence with industry, and fury with zeal, and uncharitableness with reproof, and censuring with discipline, and immortifications in all the appetites and prosecutions of the soul.

Some think it enough in all instances if they pray hugely and fervently, and that it is religion impatiently to desire a victory over our enemies, or the life of a child, or the birth of an heir; they call it holy, so they desire it in prayer. That if they reprove a vicious person they may say what they list, and be as angry as they please; that when they demand but reason they may enforce it by all means; that when they exact duty from their children they may be imperious and without limit: there

the spirit is willing, but the flesh creeps too busily, and insinuates into the substance of good actions, and spoils them by unhandsome circumstances, and then the prayer is spoiled for want of prudence or conformity to God's will, and discipline and government are embittered by an angry spirit; and the father's authority turns into an uneasy burden by being thrust like an ill-placed load to one side without allowing equal measure to the other.

A Mother's Prayer for her Children.

Most gracious and eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of men and angels, Father of mercies and God of all comforts; Thou hast promised to be a Father to a thousand generations of them that love and fear Thee, be Thou a God and a Father to me and the children which Thou hast given me. Enable me, O Lord, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and in the fear of God, to the praise of Thy holy name. O give me Thy grace and favour, that I may instruct them with diligence and meekness, govern them with prudence and holiness, lead them in the paths of religion and justice, by example and precepts of holiness; never provoking them to wrath, never indulging them in their follies, never conniving at an unworthy action; and that all my children may be Thine, O preserve them

in Thy favour, or take them away from hence while they are. If Thou pleasest, let them live to a full age, but secure them a full measure of piety and holiness. To this end give them grace to obey their parents, that doing their duty they may receive the promise: preserve them from sin and shame, from youthful follies and youthful crimes. Sanctify them throughout in their bodies, and souls, and spirits, that their thoughts may be pure and holy, not displeasing the eye of Him who is the Searcher of hearts; let their words be true, prudent, seasoned with grace; all their actions in their whole life be such as become the servants of Jesus, holy and useful; pleasing Thee and doing good to others, may they increase in the love of God, and in favour with men, and have the portion of the meek and humble in this world, and of the pure and merciful in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Benefactors.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, the fountain of all good, of all excellency, both to men and angels, extend Thine abundant favour and loving-kindness to all my friends and benefactors; reward them and make them plentiful recompense for all the good which through Thy merciful providence they have conveyed unto me. Let the light of Thy countenance shine upon them, and never let them come into any affliction or sadness, but such as may be instrumental to Thy glory and their eternal comfort. Forgive them all their sins; let Thy divine Spirit preserve them from all deeds of darkness: and Thou, who knowest every degree of their necessity, by Thy infinite wisdom, give supply to all their needs by Thy glorious mercy, preserving their persons, sanctifying their hearts, and leading them in the ways of righteousness, by the waters of comfort, to the land of eternal rest and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Widow's Prayer.

O Eternal God, most gracious Lord, and my most merciful Father, Thou art my refuge and my hope, my sanctuary and my rock, my guardian and protector, all my days. I have offended Thee, and Thou hast smitten me; I have deserved very much evil, and Thou hast corrected me with the gentle visitation of a father's rod; and though Thy hand is heavy, and Thy rod presseth me sore, by reason of my own weakness and infirmities, yet, when I consider how little I suffer, in respect of what I have deserved, I cannot but adore Thy goodness, and delight in Thy mercies, and run for help and comfort, support and conduct, to that hand which smites me. O my God, give me patience under Thy afflicting hand: for my impatience, I fear, hath provoked Thee to anger, and hath doubled my own calamity; and since my duty is my proper care, and

will make Thy hand easy and Thy anger little, give Thy servant a quiet and resigned, an humble and a meek spirit, that I may not become my own tormentor, and my sin may not be my own punishment.

Preserve me, Thy servant, from all evil; lead me into all good; change my sorrows into comforts, my infirmities into spiritual strength; take all iniquity from me, and let Thy servant never depart from Thee. I am Thine, O save me: I am Thine, sanctify me and preserve me for ever; that neither life nor death, health nor sickness, prosperity nor adversity, weakness within, nor cross accidents without, may ever separate me from the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer to be used by an Afflicted Wife in behalf of a Vicious Husband.

O ETERNAL FATHER, Thou preserver of men, Thou great lover of souls, who didst send Thy Holy Son to die, that mankind might be redeemed, and sin might be destroyed; Thou knowest how intolerable a thing it is, that a soul should, to ages upon ages, be encircled with Thy wrath and the indignation of a mighty and an angry God, and therefore dost love to do miracles of mercy, because Thou lovest not that a sinner should perish; be pleased to give Thy handmaid leave to present her humble desires in behalf of a sinner—one sinner for another—the miserable for him that is ready to perish. Lord, look down in mercy upon my husband, snatch him from the jaws of hell, suffer him not to perish in his sin; but open his eyes with the light of Thy word and Thy Spirit, that he may espy his danger,

that he may behold the deformity of his sins, the iniquity of his vows.

Cleanse his hands and heart from all unrighteousness, O Lord, and his soul and body from all impurity, giving him a perfect repentance and a perfect pardon; and if it be Thy will, let me also co-operate towards the recovery of his precious soul; and be pleased to remember the sufferings of Thy handmaid, not that he may receive evil, but that I may find good from Thy gracious hands in the day of recompense; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Afflicted Persons.

O Lord God, merciful and gracious, whose compassion extends to all that are in misery and need, that takest delight in relieving the distresses of the afflicted, give refreshment to all the comfortless, provide for the poor, give ease to all them that are tormented with sharp pains, health to the diseased, liberty and redemption to the captives, cheerfulness of spirit to all them that are in great desolations. Lord, let Thy Spirit confirm all them that are strong, strengthen all that are weak, and speak peace to afflicted consciences; that the light of Thy countenance being restored to them, they may rejoice in Thy salvation, and sing praises unto Thy name, who hast delivered their souls from death, their eyes from tears, and their feet from falling: grant this for the honour of Thy mercies, and the glory of Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For any Great Deliverance.

O God, my God my Father, Thou hast strangely preserved and rescued me from evil; and for the glory of Thy own name Thou hast diverted the arrow that was directed against me. What am I, O Lord, and what can I do, or what have I done, that Thou shouldest do this for me? I am, O God, a miserable sinner, and I can do nothing without a mighty grace, and I have done nothing by myself but what I am ashamed of, and I have received great mercies and miracles of providence. I see, O God, I see that Thy goodness is the cause and measure of all my hopes and all my good; and upon the confidence and greatness of that goodness I humbly beg of Thy sacred majesty to keep and defend me from all evil by Thy wise providence, to lead me into all good by the conduct of Thy divine Spirit; and when I have done amiss, give

me pardon; and when I have been mistaken, give me pity; and when I have been injured, give me thy favour and a gracious exchange, that I may serve Thee here with diligence, and hereafter may rejoice with Thee, and love Thee as I desire to love Thee, and as Thou deservest to be loved, even with all the powers and degrees of passion, to eternal ages, in the inheritance of Jesus, whom I love, for whom I will not refuse to die, in whom I desire to live and die: to whom with Thee, O gracious Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, love and obedience, for ever and ever. Amen.

An Act of Hope.

O God, our God, Thou hast said unto us, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you;' Thou hast often eased our calamities, and taken off Thy severe hand; Thou hast promised to be with us in time of need; Thou delightest to deliver them whose confidence is in Thy goodness; Thou hast supported our spirits in the day of our sorrow, and hast given us many intervals and spaces of refreshment, and renewest Thy lovingkindness day by day; oh, let us never have our portion amongst the hopeless and desperate. Let us always pray to Thee and hope in Thee, and in every period of our affliction let us do some actions of virtue by which we may please Thee, and be accepted as long as we can pray. Thou hast commanded us to hope; and we do hope that these comforts shall refresh our souls, that Thy mercies will support us under our afflictions, that Thy Spirit shall comfort us

in it, and Thy grace and Thy glorious providence shall speedily deliver us from it. Amen, blessed Jesus. Amen.

And now, most merciful Father, give Thy servants admittance to present our complaint before the throne of grace, and let our petition enter into Thy presence; Thy arrows stick fast in us, and Thy hand presseth us sore; open Thy heart, the treasure and spring of mercy, and thence let comforts and refreshments descend upon Thy servants. Put a blessed period to our sorrows, but first put a stop to our sins; let us not sin against Thee, when for sins Thou art smiting us; let us never charge Thee foolishly, nor behave ourselves peevishly towards others, but use all the means we can to ease their sorrows, to lighten their burdens, to sweeten their lives. O Lord, put a bar and stop unto our passions; make them to be humble ministers of religion, but never let us suffer any violent transportation in ourselves; never be provoked to any bitterness, never be harsh or cruel towards any, never to speak anything

peevishly or indecently, never to put too much upon any temporal interest; in all things let us behold Thy providence, and reverence Thy justice, and adore Thy majesty, and feel Thy mercy, and obey Thy Spirit; and if Thou shalt still persevere to smite us and to try Thy servants, let not Thy punishing us ever cause us to sin against Thee. Let not our own follies be our scourges, lest we sin against Thee, and lose Thy blessing for ever.

Be pleased, O God, to add this favour unto Thy servants, that our trouble may not be doubled or increased by our own infirmities; take from us all troublesome fancies and too quick apprehensions of our sorrows; blessed be Thy name, they are finite, and they are temporal sorrows; they are less than our sins, and they are less than our mercies. Give us grace to despise the world, and all its interests and possessions; that while we set not our affections upon them, we may not be too much afflicted when we are crossed in them; but let our greatest care be to please Thee, our greatest fear lest

we should sin against Thee. Let our duty be our employment, Thy providence our portion, Thy Spirit our guide, Thy law our rule; that when this cloud is passed over, we may see the brightness of Thy face, and perpetual showers of grace and mercy refreshing our sad and weary spirits; so shall Thy servants sing praises to the honour of Thy name, when Thou shalt have saved our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. Grant these mercies, O blessed God our Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our dearest Lord and Saviour. Amen.

For Divine Assistance in Self-examination.

O ETERNAL and most glorious God, who sittest in heaven, ruling over all things from the beginning; Thou dwellest on high, and yet humblest Thyself to behold the things that are in heaven and earth. Thou hast searched me, O Lord, and knowest me; Thou understandest my thoughts afar off, and art acquainted with all my ways; for there is not a word in my tongue but Thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether. Be pleased to impart unto Thy servant a ray of Thy heavenly light, a beam of the Sun of Righteousness. Open mine eyes, that I may see the wondrous things of Thy law, that I may walk in them all my days. Set all my sins before my face, that I may speedily, and earnestly, and perfectly, repent and forsake them all. Give me a sight of my infirmities, that I may watch against them; discover to me all my evil and weak principles, that I may reform them. And whatsoever is wanting

in me towards the understanding of anything whereby I may please Thee and perfect my duty, I beg of Thee to reveal that also unto me; that my duty may not be reproved, and my affections may not be perverse, and hardened in their foolish pursuance, and a secret sin may not lie undiscovered and corrupting my soul.

Give me an ingenuous and a severe spirit, that whatever judgment of charity I make concerning others, I may give a right judgment concerning my own state and actions, condemning the criminal, censuring the suspicious, suspecting what seems allowable, and watchful even over the best; that I may, in the spirit of repentance and mortification, correct all my irregularities and reform my errors, and improve the good things which Thou hast given me; that endeavouring to approve my actions to my conscience, and my conscience to Thy law, I may not be a reprobate, but approved by Thee in the great day of examination of all the world, and be reckoned amongst Thy elect, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Confession of Sins.

ALMIGHTY GOD, powerful and merciful, Thou art a jealous God against persevering sinners, but a gracious Father to the penitent; let Thy merciful ears be opened to the petitions of Thy servants, who with sorrow and shame confess their sins unto Thee.

We have loved the world, not Thee; we have obeyed the desires of our own hearts, not Thy holy laws and commandments; we have often left our duty undone, but ceased not to please our senses, and to feed greedily upon vanity: Thou hast commanded us to love our brethren, and instead of loving them we have slandered and reproached, injured and tempted them, envied their good, and rejoiced in their calamity.

But, O God, Thou God of pity and compassion, have mercy upon us: for Thou art our Father, merciful and gracious, and Thou

hast revealed to mankind an infinite mercy in Jesus Christ. For His sake be pleased to give us repentance and to give us pardon, and grant that our souls being washed in the blood of the Holy Lamb and the baptism of repentance, we may live a gracious, a holy, and a blessed life, in all godliness, and honesty, and sobriety, and may die in the love of God, in the charity of our neighbours, in the communion of the Church, and in a sure and certain hope of life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

'This is the prodigy I bear continually within me. I myself am a prodigy. Being nothing—at least professing only a dependent, lowly, and transient existence, I hold by the infinite and immutable which I have conceived. This is why I am incapable of *comprehending* myself: I embrace all, and yet am nothing—a nothing which knows the infinite. Words fail me to express how much I at once admire and despise myself. O God! O Being beyond all beings! O Being before whom I am as if I were not! Thou showest Thyself unto me, and nothing which is not of Thee can resemble Thee. I behold Thee; it is Thyself and the light of Thy countenance reaches me and supports me, and supports my heart while waiting for the great day of truth.'—FÉNÉLON.

For Repentance and a Holy Life.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the fountain of holiness and felicity, who by Thy word and Thy Spirit dost conduct all Thy servants in Thy ways of peace and sanctity, inviting them by promises and winning them by love; endearing them by necessities and obliging them by the perpetual testimonies of Thy loving-kindness; grant unto us so truly to repent us of our sins, so carefully to reform our errors, so diligently to watch over all our actions, so industriously to do all our duty—that we may never transgress Thy holy laws willingly; but that it may be the work of our lives to obey Thee, the joy of our souls to please Thee, the satisfaction of all our hopes, and the perfection of all our desires, to live with Thee in the holiness of Thy kingdom of grace and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Amendment of Life.

THOU hast prepared for me a more healthful sorrow: O deny not Thy servant when he begs sorrow of Thee. Give me a deep contrition of my sins, a hearty detestation and loathing of them, hating them worse than death with torments. Give me grace, entirely, presently, and for ever, to forsake them; to walk with care and prudence, with fear and watchfulness, all my days; to do all my duty with diligence and charity, with zeal and a never-fainting spirit; to redeem the time, to trust upon Thy mercies, to make use of all the instruments of grace to work out my salvation with fear and trembling: that Thou mayest, in Thy great mercy, pardon all my sins, that I may reap the fruit of all Thy mercies and all Thy graces, of Thy patience and long-suffering — even to live a holy life here, and reign with Thee for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To be said on the Days of Repentance for the Commission of any great Crime.

O MOST glorious God, I tremble to come into Thy presence, so polluted and dishonoured as I am by my foul stain of sin which I have contracted; but I must come, or I perish. O my God, I cannot help it now; miserable that I am, to have reduced myself to so sad a state of things, that I neither am worthy to come unto Thee, nor dare I stay from Thee; miserable that I am, who lost that portion of innocence which, if I should pay my life in price, I cannot now recover. O God, I have offended Thee, my gracious Father, my Lord, my Judge, my Advocate, and my Redeemer. Shame and sorrow are upon me for so offending Thee, my gracious Saviour. But glory be to Thee, O Lord, who art such to me who have offended Thee. It aggravates my sin that

I have sinned against Thee, who art so excellent in Thyself, who art so good to me; but if Thou wert not so good to me, though my sin would be less, my misery would be greater. The greatness of my crime brings me to my remedy; and now I humbly pray Thee be merciful to my sin, for it is very great.

O my God, pity me, and relieve my sad condition, which is so extremely evil that I have no comfort but from that which is indeed my misery; for it is Thy grace and goodness which I have so provoked. Thou, O God, didst give me grace, and assist me by Thy Holy Spirit, and call me by Thy word, and instruct me by Thy wisdom, and didst work in me to will and to do of Thy good pleasure. I know my sin, and I saw my danger, and I was not ignorant, and I was not surprised; but willingly, knowingly, basely, and sensually, I gave Thee away for the pleasure of a minute, for the purchase of vanity; I exchanged Thee for shame and sorrow, and having justly forfeited Thy love, am placed I know not in what degree

of Thine anger, nor in what neighbourhood to damnation. O God, my God, what have I done? whither am I fallen? I was well and blessed—circled with Thy graces, conducted by Thy Spirit, sealed up to the day of redemption, in a hopeful way towards Thee—and now I have listened to the whispers of a tempting spirit; and for that which hath in it no good, no reason, no satisfaction, for that which is not, I have forfeited those excellencies for the recovery of which my life is too cheap a price. I am ashamed, O God, I am ashamed. I put my mouth in the dust, and my face in darkness, and hate myself for my sin, which I am sure Thou hatest. But give Thy servant leave to hope that I shall feel Thy gracious love: I know that Thou art angry with me, I have deserved it. But if Thou hadst not loved me and pitied me, Thou mightest have stricken me in the act of my shame. I know the design of Thy mercy and loving kindness is to bring me to repentance and pardon, to life and grace. I obey Thee, O God, I humbly obey Thy gracious pur-

poses. Receive, O Lord, a returning sinner, a poor, wounded person, smitten by my enemies, broken by my sin, weary and heavy laden; ease me of my burden, and strengthen me by a mighty grace, that hereafter I may watch more carefully, resist more pertinaciously, walk more circumspectly, and serve Thee without the interruptions of duty by the intervening of a sin. Oh, let me rather die than choose to sin against Thee any more. Only try me this once, and bear me in Thy arms, and fortify my holy purposes, and conduct me with Thy grace, that Thou mayest delight to pardon me, and to save me, through Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A Prayer for a Sinner returning after a long Impiety.

'I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost: O feed Thy servant, for I do not forget Thy commandments.'

O ETERNAL Judge of men and angels, Father of mercy and the great lover of souls, I humbly acknowledge that the state of my soul is sad and deplorable, and by my own grievous fault I am in an evil condition: and if Thou shouldest now enter into judgment with me, I have nothing to put against the horrible sentence, nothing of my own that can ease Thy anger, or abate one stroke of Thy severe infliction. I do, O God, judge and condemn myself and justify Thee, for Thou art righteous, and whatsoever Thou doest is good and true; and if I so perish as I deserved, Thou art just and

righteous, and Thou oughtest for ever to be glorified.

But, O my God, though I have deserved evils that I know not, yet Thou art gracious and holy, and lovest more to behold Thy glory reflected from the floods and springs of mercy than from the troubled waters of Thy severe displeasure: and because Thou lovest so highly to show mercy, I also ought to desire what Thou lovest, and to beg of Thee humbly and passionately that I may not perish; and to hope that Thou hast mercy in store for him to whom Thou hast given grace to ask it.

O my God, pity me for Thy name's sake, even for Thy own goodness' sake, and because I am miserable and need it. And because I have nothing of my own to be a ground of confidence, give Thy servant leave to place my hopes on Thee, through Jesus Christ: Thou hast commanded me to come to the throne of grace, that I may find mercy in time of need; and Thou hast promised to give Thy Holy Spirit to them that ask it. O God, give me pardon, and give

me Thy Spirit, and I am safe, and healed, and all that I desire to be, all that I ought to be.

I have spent much time in vanity; grant me Thy grace that I may recover my loss, and employ all the remaining portion of my time in holy offices and duties of repentance. My understanding hath been abused by false persuasions and vain confidences. But now, O God, I offer up that imperious faculty wholly to the obedience of Christ; to be governed by His laws, to be instructed by His doctrine, to be bended by all His arguments. My will hath been used to crookedness and peevish morosity; but now, O God, I have no will but what is Thine, and I will rather die than consent and choose anything that I know displeases Thee. My heart was a fountain of evil thoughts, ungracious words, and irregular actions, because my passions were not obedient, nor carried to a right object; but now, O God, I present them unto Thee, not as a fit oblation, but as the lepers and the blind, the lame and the crooked, were

brought unto the Holy Jesus to be made straight and clean: and when Thou hast taken what is Thine, and which the devil did usurp, then Thou wilt sanctify and save it, use it as Thy own, and make it to be so for ever.

Blessed God, refuse not Thy returning son. I have prodigally wasted my talents, and spent my time in vain living; but I have not lost my title and relation to Thee, my Father. O my God, I have the sorrow of a humble penitent, the purposes of a converted sinner, the love of a pardoned person, the zeal of a redeemed prisoner, the hope of him that feels Thy present goodness and longs for more. Reject me not, O my God, but do Thou work within me. My heart is in Thy hands, and I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps, but do Thou guide me into the way of righteousness; work in me an excellent repentance, a great caution and observance, an humble fear, a religious hope, and a growing charity; 'work in me to will and to do of

Thy good pleasure.' Then shall I praise Thy name, and love Thy excellencies, and obey Thy commandments, and suffer Thy impositions, and be what Thou wouldest have me to be; that I, being rescued from the possession of the devil, and the torments of punishing souls, may be admitted to serve Thee, and be a minister of Thy honour, in the kingdoms of grace and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin.

O ETERNAL GOD, whose perfections are infinite, whose mercies are glorious, whose justice is severe, whose eyes are pure, and whose judgments are wise; be pleased to look upon the infirmities of Thy servant, and consider my weakness. My spirit is willing, but my flesh is weak; I desire to please Thee, but in my endeavours I fail so often, so foolishly, so unreasonably, that I extremely displease myself, and I have too great reason to fear that Thou also art displeased with Thy servant. O my God, I know my duty, I resolve to do it; I know my dangers, I stand upon my guard against them: but when they come near, I begin to be pleased and delighted in the little images of death, and am seized upon by folly, even when with greatest severity I decree against it. Blessed Jesus, pity me and have mercy upon my infirmities.

O God, I humbly beg to be relieved by a mighty grace, for I bear a body of sin and death about me; sin creeps upon me in everything that I do or suffer: when I do well, I am apt to be proud; when I do amiss, I am sometimes too confident, sometimes affrighted. If I see others do amiss, I either neglect them, or grow too angry; and in the very mortification of my anger I grow angry and peevish. My duties are imperfect, my repentances little, my passions great, my fancy trifling: the sins of my tongue are infinite, and my omissions are infinite, and my evil thoughts cannot be numbered, and I cannot give an account concerning innumerable portions of my time which were once in my power, but were let slip, and were partly spent in sin, partly thrown away upon trifles and vanity; and even of the basest sins, of which in account of men I am most innocent, I am guilty before Thee, entertaining those sins in little instances, thoughts, desires, and imaginations, which I durst not produce into action and open significations. Blessed

Jesus, pity me, and have mercy on my infirmities.

Teach me, O Lord, to walk before Thee in righteousness, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Give me an obedient will, a loving spirit, an humble understanding, watchfulness over my thoughts, deliberation in all my words and actions, well-tempered passions, and a great prudence, and a great zeal, and a great charity, that I may do my duty wisely ,diligently, holily; oh, let me be humbled in my infirmities, but let me be also safe from my enemies; let me never fall by their violence, nor by my own weakness; let me never be overcome by them, nor give myself up to folly and weak principles, to idleness and secure, careless walking; but give me the strength of Thy Spirit, that I may grow strong upon the ruins of the flesh, growing from grace to grace, till I become a perfect man in Christ Jesus. Oh, let Thy strength be seen in my weakness; and let Thy mercy triumph over my infirmities; pitying the condition of my nature, the infancy of grace, the imperfection of my

knowledge, the transportation of my passion. Let me never consent to sin, but for ever strive against it, and every day prevail, till it be quite dead in me; that Thy servant, living the life of grace, may at last be admitted to that state of glory, where all my infirmities shall be done away, and all tears be dried up, and sin and death shall be no more. Grant this, O gracious God and Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

THE first great argument of changing our whole nature into the state of grace—flesh into spirit—is a firm belief, and a perfect assent to, and a hearty entertainment of, the promises of the Gospel; for Holy Scripture speaks great words concerning faith. 'It quenches the fiery darts of the devil,' saith St. Paul; 'It overcomes the world,' saith St. John; it is the fruit of the Spirit and the parent of love; it is obedience, and it is humility, and it is a shield, and it is a breastplate, and a work, and a mystery; it is a fight, and it is victory; it is pleasing God, and it is that 'whereby the just do live,'—'by faith we are purified,' 'by faith we are sanctified,' and 'by faith we are justified,' and 'by faith we are saved,'—by it we stand, and by it we walk, and by this Christ dwells in our hearts—it gives great patience to suffer, and great confidence to

hope, and great strength to do, and infallible certainty to enjoy—the end of all our faith and satisfaction of all our hopes, ever 'the most mighty prize of our high calling.'—JEREMY TAYLOR.

Penitential Prayers.

I.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, the fountain of all virtue, the support of all holy hopes, the author of pardon, of life, and of salvation; Thou art the comforter of all that call upon Thee; Thou hast concluded all under sin, that Thou mightest have mercy upon all. Look upon me, O God, and have pity on me, lying in my blood and misery, in my shame and in my sins, in the fear and guilt of Thy wrath, in the shadow of death, and in the gates of hell.

I confess to Thee, O God, what Thou knowest already; but I confess it to manifest Thy justice, and to glorify Thy mercy, who hast spared me so long; that I am guilty of the vilest and basest follies which usually dishonour the fools and the worst of the sons of men. I have been proud and covetous, envious and lustful, angry and greedy, indevout and irreligious; restless in

my passions, sensual and secular, but hating wise counsels, and soon weary of the offices of a holy religion. I cannot give an account of my time, and I cannot reckon the sins of my tongue. My crimes are intolerable, and my imperfections shameful, and my omissions innumerable; and what shall I do, O Thou preserver of men? I am so vile that I cannot express it; so sinful that I am hateful to myself, and much more abominable must I needs be in Thy eyes. I have sinned against Thee without necessity, sometimes without temptation, only because I would sin, and would not delight in the ways of peace. I have been so ungrateful, so foolish, so unreasonable, that I have put my own eyes out that I might, with confidence and without fear, sin against so good a God, so gracious a Father, so infinite a Power, so gracious a Majesty, so bountiful a Patron, and so mighty a Redeemer, that my sin is grown shameful and aggravated, even to amazement. I can say no more, I am ashamed, O God: I am amazed, I am confounded, at Thy presence.

But yet, O God, Thou art the healer of our breaches, and the lifter up of our heads, and I must not despair; and I am sure Thy goodness is infinite, and Thou dost not delight in the death of a sinner; and my sins, though very great, are infinitely less than Thy mercies, which Thou hast revealed to all penitent and returning sinners in Jesus Christ.

I am unworthy to look up to heaven; but be Thou pleased to look down into the dust, and lift up a sinner; let me not perish in my folly, nor be consumed in Thy heavy displeasure. Give me time and space to repent, and give me power of grace and aids of Thy Spirit; that as by Thy gifts and mercy I intend to amend whatsoever is amiss, so I may indeed have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same. Inspire me with the spirit of repentance and mortification, that I may always fight against my sins, till I be more than conqueror. Support me with a holy hope, confirm me with an excellent operative and unreprovable faith, and enkindle a bright and burning

charity in my soul. Give me patience in suffering, severity in judging and condemning my sins, and in punishing the sinner; that judging myself, I be not condemned by Thee; that mourning for my sins, I may rejoice in Thy pardon; that killing my sins, I may live in righteousness; that denying my own will, I may always perform Thine; and by the methods of Thy Spirit I may overcome all carnal and spiritual wickedness, and walk in Thy light, and delight in Thy service, and perfect my obedience, and be wholly delivered from my ruin, and for ever preserved from Thy wrath, and at last pass on from a certain expectation to an actual fruition of the glories of Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

II.

I AM in Thy sight a polluted person; sin hath overspread me; I am a scandal to others, a shame to myself, and deserve to be rejected and scorned by Thee. But this, O God, I cannot bear: it is just in Thee to destroy me, but Thou delightest not in that; I am guilty of death, but Thou lovest rather that I should live. Oh, let the cry of Thy Son's blood, who offers an eternal sacrifice to Thee, speak on my behalf. My conscience does accuse me, the devils rejoice in my fall, and aggravate my crimes, already too great: and Thy Holy Spirit is grieved by me. But my Saviour, Jesus Christ, died for me, and Thou pitiest me; and Thy Holy Spirit still calls upon me, and I am willing to come; but I cannot come unless Thou drawest me with cords of love. Oh, draw me unto Thee by the arguments of charity, by the endearments of Thy mercies, by the order of Thy providence, by the hope of Thy promises, by the sense of Thy comforts, by the conviction of my understanding, by

the zeal and passion of holy affections, by an unreprovable faith and an humble hope, by a religious fear and an increasing love, by the obedience of precepts and efficacy of holy example, by Thy power and Thy wisdom, by the love of Thy Son and the grace of Thy Spirit. I am not worthy, O Lord, I am not worthy to come into Thy presence; and where shall I, vile wretch, appear, who have put my Lord to death, and exposed Him to an open shame, and crucified the Lord of life?

Where should I appear but before my Saviour, who died for them that have murdered Him; who hath loved them that hated Him; who is the Saviour of His enemies, and the life of the dead, and the redemption of captives, and the advocate for sinners, and all we do need, and all we can desire.

Grant that in Thy wounds I may find my safety; in Thy stripes, my care; in Thy pain, my peace; in Thy cross, my victory; in Thy resurrection, my triumph; and a crown of righteousness in the glories of Thy eternal kingdom. Amen, Amen.

For Grace and Perfection of Repentance.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art the Judge of all the world, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, the Father of men and angels, Thou lovest not that a sinner should perish, but delightest in our conversion and salvation, and hast in our Lord Jesus Christ established the covenant of repentance, and promised pardon to all them that confess their sins and forsake them. O my God, be pleased to work in me what Thou hast commanded should be in me. Lord, I am a dry tree, who neither have brought forth fruit unto Thee and unto holiness, nor have wept out salutary tears, the instrument of life and restitution, but have behaved myself like an unconcerned person in the ruins and breaches of my soul; but, O God, Thou art my God, early will I seek Thee; my soul thirsteth for Thee in a barren and thirsty land where no water

is. Lord, give me the grace of tears and pungent sorrow, turn my sin into repentance, and let my repentance proceed to pardon and refreshment.

Support me with Thy graces, strengthen me with Thy Spirit, soften my heart with the dew of heaven, with penitential showers. Make the remaining portion of my days full of caution and observance, strong and resolute, patient and severe. Oh, let me be as great in my repentance as ever I have been in my calamity and shame; let my hatred to sin be as great as my love to Thee, and both as near to infinite as my proportion can receive.

O Lord, I renounce all affection to sin, and would rather die than offend Thee; have pity upon Thy servant. Oh, grant me sorrow and joy hereafter, through Jesus Christ, who here is our hope, the resurrection of the dead, the justifier of a sinner, and the glory of all faithful souls. Amen.

A Prayer to be said at the beginning of a Sickness.

O LORD, my God, who chastisest every one whom Thou receivest, and with Thy fatherly correction smitest all whom Thou consignest to the inheritance of sons; write my soul in the book of life, and number me amongst Thy children, whom Thou hast smitten with the rod of sickness, and by Thy chastisements hast brought me into the lot of the righteous. Thou, O blessed Jesu, art a helper in the needful time of trouble, lay no more upon me than Thou shalt enable me to bear, and let Thy gentle correction in this life prevent the insupportable stripes of the vengeance in the life to come. Smite me now, that Thou mayest spare me to all eternity; and yet, O blessed High Priest, who art touched with a sense of our infirmities, smite me friendly, and reprove me with such a tenderness as Thou bearest unto Thy children, to

whom Thou conveyest comforts greater than the pains of chastisement; and in due time restore me to health, and to Thy solemn assemblies again, and to the joy of Thy countenance. Give me patience and humility, and the grace of repentance, and an absolute dereliction of myself, and a resignation to Thy pleasure and providence, with a power to do Thy will in all things, and then do what Thou pleasest to me; only in health or sickness, in life or death, let me feel Thy comforts refreshing my soul, and let Thy grace pardon all my sins. Grant this, O blessed Jesu, for my trust is in Thee only; Thou art my God, and my merciful Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

A Prayer for a Sick Person in Danger of Death.

O Lord Jesus Christ, our health and life, our hope and our resurrection from the dead, I resign myself up to Thy holy will and pleasure, either to life, that I may live longer to Thy service and my amendment, or to death, to the perpetual enjoyment of Thy presence and of Thy glories. Into Thy hands I commend my spirit, for I know, O Lord, that nothing can perish which is committed to Thy mercies. I believe, O Lord, that I shall receive my body again at the resurrection of the just; I relinquish all care of that, only I beg of Thee mercy for my soul; strengthen it with Thy grace against all temptations, let Thy loving-kindness defend it as with a shield against all violences and hostile attempts of Satan; let the same mercy be my guard and defence

which protected the martyrs, crowning them with victory in the midst of the flames, horrid torments, and most cruel deaths. There is no help in me, O Lord; I cannot by my own power give a minute's rest to my wearied body, but my trust is in Thy sure mercies; and I call to mind, to my unspeakable comfort, that Thou wert hungry, and thirsty, and wearied, and crowned with thorns, and mocked, and crucified for me. Oh, let that mercy which made Thee suffer so much make Thee do that for which Thou sufferedst so much, pardon and save me. Let Thy merits answer for my impieties, let Thy righteousness cover my sins, Thy blood wash away my stains, and Thy comforts refresh my soul. As my body grows weak, let Thy grace be stronger; let not my faith doubt, nor my hope tremble, nor my charity grow cold, nor my soul be affrighted by the terrors of death; but let the light of Thy countenance enlighten mine eyes, that I sleep not in death eternal; and when my tongue fails let Thy Spirit teach my heart to pray with strong cryings and groans that are utterable.

Oh, let not the enemy do me any violence, but let Thy holy mercies and Thy angels repel and defeat his malice and fraud, that my soul may, by Thy strength, triumph in the joys of eternity, in the fruition of Thee, my life, my joy, my hope, my exceeding great reward, my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

'THERE is no man that hath heard of God, who hath not at first some dread of offending Him; it appearing to a mind not utterly blinded a desperate thing to brave His irresistible power—an absurd thing to thwart His infallible wisdom—a detestable thing to abuse His immense goodness.'—BARROW.

A Prayer to be said in the case of a sudden Surprise by Death, when the Forms and Solemnities of Preparation cannot be used.

O MOST GRACIOUS FATHER, Lord of heaven and earth, judge of the living and the dead, behold Thy servants running to Thee for pity and mercy in behalf of ourselves and this Thy servant, whom Thou hast smitten with Thy hasty rod and a swift angel. If it be Thy will preserve his life, that there may be place for repentance and restitution. 'Oh, spare him a little, that he may recover his strength before he go hence, and be no no more seen!'

But if Thou hast otherwise decreed, let the miracles of Thy compassion and Thy wonderful mercy supply to him the want of the usual measures of time, and the periods of repentance, and the trimming of his lamp; and let the greatness of the calamity be accepted by Thee as an instrument to procure

pardon for those defects and degrees of unreadiness which may have caused this accident upon Thy servant. Lord, stir up in him a great and effectual contrition, that the greatest of the sorrow and hatred against sin, and the zeal of his love to Thee, may in a short time do the work of many days. And Thou, who regardest the heart and measures of the mind more than the delay and the measures of time, let it be Thy pleasure to rescue the soul of Thy servant from all the evils he hath deserved, and all the evils that he fears; that in the glorifications of eternity, and the songs which, to eternal ages, Thy saints and holy angels shall sing to the honour of Thy mighty name and invaluable mercies, it may be reckoned among Thy glories that Thou hast redeemed this soul from the dangers of an eternal death, and made him partaker of the gift of God, eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Act of Holy Resolution of Amendment of life in case of Recovery.

O MOST just and most merciful Lord God, who hast sent evil diseases, sorrow and fear, trouble and uneasiness, into the world, and planted them in our houses, and around about our dwellings, to keep sin from our souls, or to drive it thence, I humbly beg of Thee, that this my sickness may serve the ends of the Spirit, and be a messenger of spiritual life, an instrument of reducing me to more religious and sober courses.

I know, Lord, I am unready and unprepared in my accounts, having thrown away great portions of my time in vanity, and set myself hugely back in the accounts of eternity, and I had need live my life over again, and live it better; but Thy counsels are in the great deep, and Thy footsteps in the waters, and I know not what Thou wilt determine of me. If I die I throw myself

into the arms of the Holy Jesus, whom I love above all things; and if I perish, I know I have deserved it, but Thou wilt not reject him that loves Thee: but if I recover I will live by Thy grace, and help to do the work of God, and passionately pursue my interest in heaven, and serve Thee in the labour of love, with the charities of a holy zeal and the diligence of a firm and humble obedience. Lord, I will dwell in Thy temple, and in Thy service; religion shall be my employment, and alms shall be my recreation, and patience shall be my rest: to do Thy will shall be my meat and drink, and to live shall be Christ, and then to die shall be gain.

Oh, spare me a little, that I may recover my strength before I go hence and be no more seen. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

An Act of Resignation, to be said by a Sick Person in all the evil Accidents of his Sickness.

O ETERNAL GOD, Thou hast made me and sustained me; Thou hast blessed me in all the days of my life, and hast taken care of me in all variety of accidents; and nothing happens to me in vain, nothing without Thy providence; and I know Thou smitest Thy servants in mercy, and with designs of the greatest pity in the world. Lord, I humbly lie down under Thy rod; do Thou with me as Thou pleasest: do Thou choose for me, not only the whole state and condition of being, but every little and great accident. Keep me safe by Thy grace, and then use what instrument Thou pleasest of bringing me to Thee. Lord, I am not solicitous of the passage, so I may get to Thee. Only, Lord, remember my infirmities, and let Thy servant rejoice in Thee always, and feel, and

confess, and glory in Thy goodness. Oh, be Thou as delightful to me in this my medicinal sickness, as ever Thou wert in any of the dangers of my prosperity; let me not peevishly refuse Thy pardon at the rate of a severe discipline. I am Thy servant and Thy creature, Thy purchased possession, and Thy son. I am Thine; and because Thou hast mercy in store for all that trust in Thee, I cover my eyes, and in silence wait for the time of my redemption. Amen.

A Prayer for the Grace of Patience.

Most merciful and gracious Father, who in the redemption of lost mankind by the passion of Thy most holy Son hast established a covenant of sufferings, I bless and magnify Thy name that Thou hast adopted me into the inheritance of sons. Lord, the cross falls heavy, and sits uneasy upon my shoulders; my spirit is willing, but my flesh is weak. I humbly beg of Thee that I may now rejoice in this Thy dispensation and effect of providence. I know and am persuaded that Thou art then as gracious when Thou smitest us for our amendment or trial, as when Thou relievest our wearied bodies in compliance with our infirmity. I rejoice, O Lord, in Thy rare and mysterious mercy, who by sufferings hast turned our misery into advantages unspeakable; for so Thou makest us like to Thy Son, and givest us a

gift that the angels never did receive; for they cannot die in conformity to, and imitation of, their Lord and ours: but, blessed be Thy name, we can; and, Lord, let it be so. Amen.

THOU, who art a God of patience and consolation, strengthen me in the inner man, that I may bear the yoke and burden of the Lord without any uneasy and useless murmurs, and ineffective unwillingness. Lord, I am unable to stand under the cross—unable of myself; but Thou, O Holy Jesus, be Thou pleased to ease this load, by fortifying my spirit, that I may be able to do and suffer everything Thou pleasest, through Jesus Christ, who strengthens me. Lord, if Thou wilt support me, I will ever praise Thee; if Thou wilt suffer the load to press me yet more heavily, I will cry unto Thee, and complain unto my God: and at last I will lie and die, and by the mercies and intercession of the holy Jesus, and the conduct of Thy blessed Spirit, and the ministry of angels, pass into those mansions where holy souls rest and weep no more. Lord, pity me; Lord, sanctify this my sickness;

Lord, strengthen me; holy Jesus, save me and deliver me. Thou knowest how shamefully I have fallen with pleasure; in Thy mercy and very pity let me not fall with pain too. Oh, let me never charge God foolishly, nor offend Thee by my impatience and uneasy spirit, nor weaken the hands and hearts of those that charitably minister to my needs: but let me pass through the valley of tears, and valley of the shadow of death, with safety and peace, with a meek spirit, and a sense of divine mercy; and though Thou breakest me in pieces, my hope is Thou wilt gather me up in the gatherings of eternity. Grant this, eternal God, gracious Father, for the merits and intercession of our merciful High Priest, who once suffered for me, and for ever intercedes for me, our most gracious and ever-blessed Saviour, Jesus. Amen.

For Pardon of Sins, to be said in Sickness or in Old Age.

O ETERNAL and most gracious Father, I humbly throw myself down at the foot of Thy mercy-seat, on the confidence of Thy mercy, and Thy commandment that we should come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may find mercy in the time of need. O my God, hear the prayers and cries of a sinner, who calls earnestly for mercy. In mercy, O Lord, deliver my soul: oh, save me for Thy mercy's sake, for in the second death there is no remembrance of Thee; in that grave who shall give Thee thanks?

O just and dear God, my sins are innumerable; they are a burden too heavy for me to bear: they already bring sorrow and sickness, shame and displeasure, guilt and a

decaying spirit, a sense of Thy present displeasure, and fear of worse, infinitely worse. But it is to Thee so essential, so delightful, so usual, so desired by Thee, to show mercy, that although my sin be very great, and my fear proportionable, yet Thy mercy is infinitely greater than all the world, and my hope and my comfort rise up in proportion towards it, that I hope the devils will never be able to reprove it, nor my own weakness to discompose it.

Lord, Thou hast sent Thy Son to die for the pardon of my sins; Thou hast given me Thy Holy Spirit, as a seal of adoption, of remission of sins; Thou hast, with variety of holy acts, softened my spirit, instructed my understanding, bent and inclined my will, and overruled my passions, in order to repentance and pardon; and why should not Thy servant beg, and humbly hope for, the effects of all these Thy strange and miraculous acts of loving-kindness? Lord, I deserve it not, but I hope Thou wilt pardon all my sins; and I beg it of Thee for Jesus Christ's sake, whom Thou hast made the

foundation of our hopes and the mighty instrument whereby we may obtain of Thee whatsoever we need and can receive.

O my God, how shall Thy servant be disposed to receive such a favour, which is so great, that the ever-blessed Jesus did die to purchase it for us? Lord, I do from my soul forgive all that have sinned against me: oh, forgive me my sins, as I forgive them that have sinned against me. Lord, I confess my sins unto Thee daily; I put my trust in Thee, and Thou art ever gracious to them that put their trust in Thee. I call upon my God for mercy, and Thou art always more ready to hear than we to pray. But all that I can do, and all that I am, and all that I know of myself, is nothing but sin, misery, and infirmity: therefore I go forth of myself, and throw myself wholly into the arms of Thy mercy through Jesus Christ, and beg of Thee, for His death and passion's sake, by His resurrection and Thy infinite mercy, to be pitiful and compassionate to Thy servant, in the abolition of all my sins: so shall I praise Thy glories

with a tongue not defiled, and a heart purged by Thy grace, quitted by Thy mercy, and absolved by Thy sentence, from generation to generation. Amen.

'The gentle whispers and touchings of Divine grace.'—BARROW.

'In youth, health, and prosperity, the Christian religion awakens feelings of gratitude and sublime love; but it is in age, sickness, and misfortune, that its effects are most strongly felt. Then it revives powers which seemed to have become extinct, and gives a freshness to the mind which seemed to have passed away for ever. Then it seems like a sheltered creek, surrounded by tranquil groves and meadows, to a shipwrecked mariner escaping from a tempest: it is like a green and dewy spot gushing with fountains to a thirsty traveller in the midst of the desert. Its influence outlives all earthly enjoyments, and becomes stronger as the organs decay and as the frame dissolves.

'It appears like the evening star in the horizon of life, which we are sure is to become in another season a morning star, and so throw its radiances over the gloom and shadow of death.'—SIR H. DAVY.

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